

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 31 and 34 are pending, with both being independent. Claims 12 through 14, 16, 27 through 30, 32, 33, and 35 through 37 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 31 and 34 have been amended.

Claims 12 through 14, 16, 27 through 30, 32, 33, and 35 through 37 are variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 4,780,739 (Kawakami, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,740,828 (Kinoshita) and/or U.S. Patent No. 5,117,246 (Takahashi, et al.), all being commonly-assigned and newly-cited, with the rejections of Claims 16, 29, and 37 depending upon Takahashi, et al. Claims 31 and 34 were objected to for informalities and were objected to and indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. All rejections and objections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of Claims 31 and 34 as kindly suggested in the Official Action, to obviate the objection to informalities, and in independent form.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remark, the application is in allowable form.
Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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